## **Greenville Tea Party VETO Scorecard 2015**

### **INTRODUCTION & ANALYSIS**

#### DISCOVER HERE HOW YOUR REPRESENTATIVES RESPONDED TO THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET VETOES.

Each year the SC General Assembly presents to the Governor an annual budget (bill number H3701). In accordance with the SC Constitution, the Governor is given the opportunity to veto specific portions of the budget with which he or she might disagree. The General Assembly can, with a 2/3 majority vote, override each veto. The Greenville Tea Party believes this process has NOT provided the taxpayers of SC with a satisfactory budget.

In 2015, the governor's puny 83 budget vetoes<sup>(1)</sup> would have reduced the annual budget by less than 0.1%. But most of the governor's very modest vetoes were overridden by the legislature<sup>(2)</sup>. Each legislator's vote to override a veto is shown in red; sustaining votes are shown in green. The small spatter of green (good) shown herein in an expanse of red (bad) is a graphic image of EXCESSIVE SPENDING.

We all know that our state and nation are in crisis. The problem is that decades of expanding government laws and regulations are bearing heavily on our daily existence so that it is increasingly difficult to pursue our own happiness and prosperity.

So, the compelling question is why do conservatives vote for big spenders? The answer is profound and simple. Most conservative voters have not looked at their elected representatives' true voting record; the voters have been misled. Therefore, if every conservative voter in the state will study a scorecard such as the *Greenville Tea Party VETO Scorecard 2015*, South Carolinians will eventually regain some of their lost freedom and wellbeing.

Congratulations go to Senators Lee Bright and Kevin Bryant for their perfect records in support of the Governor's vetoes this year; and also to Representatives Ralph Norman, Jonathon Hill and Wendy Nanney for their almost perfect records. However, Republican Senator Hugh Leatherman and Republican Representative Christopher Corley supported our Republican Governor's vetoes only 3% and 0% of the time, respectively.

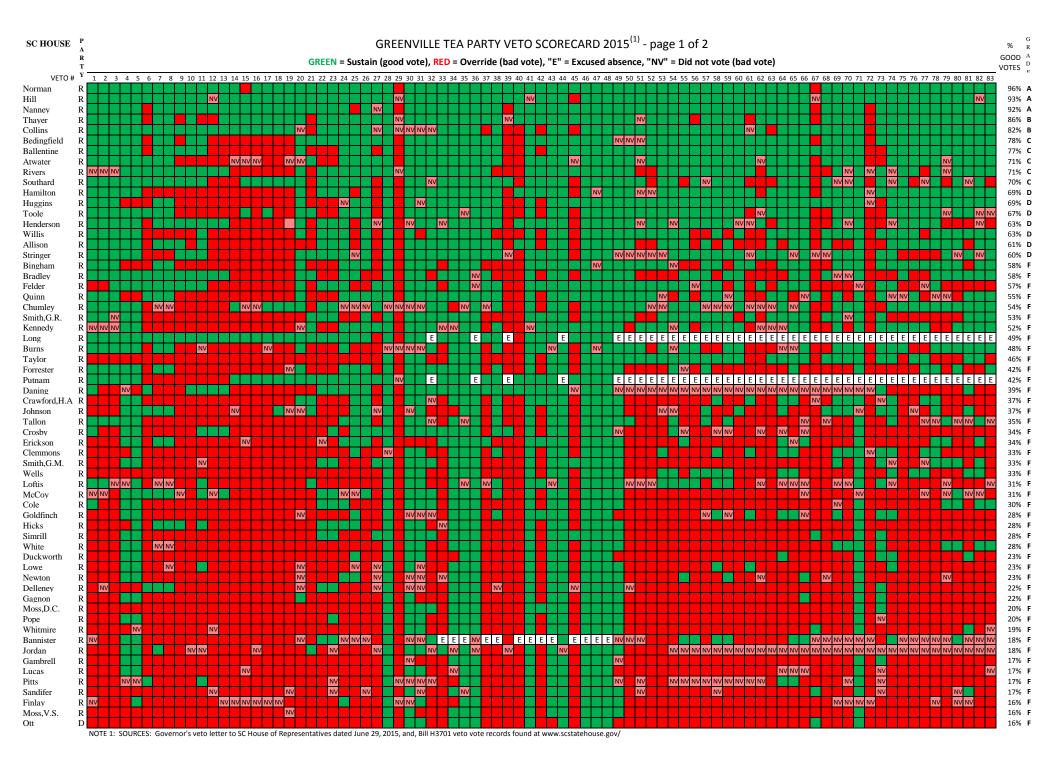
The results clearly show the Democrats rarely support our Republican Governor's views on saving the taxpayer's money. Surprisingly, neither do a number of Republicans! Four Republican Senators and 12 Republican Representatives received scores equal to or lower than Democrats.

And the trends are not good. We compared the appropriation veto voting records for this year and last year for those Representatives and Senators who were there both years. Almost 41% of all House members and over 60% of the Senators <u>decreased</u> their support for reduced spending over that 2-year period. Also, polarization seems to be on the rise in the Senate with this issue. All of the Senate members with <u>passing</u> grades this year <u>increased</u> their support for reduced spending compared with last year; while over 80% of the Senate members with <u>failing</u> grades this year <u>decreased</u> their support for reduced spending compared with last year.

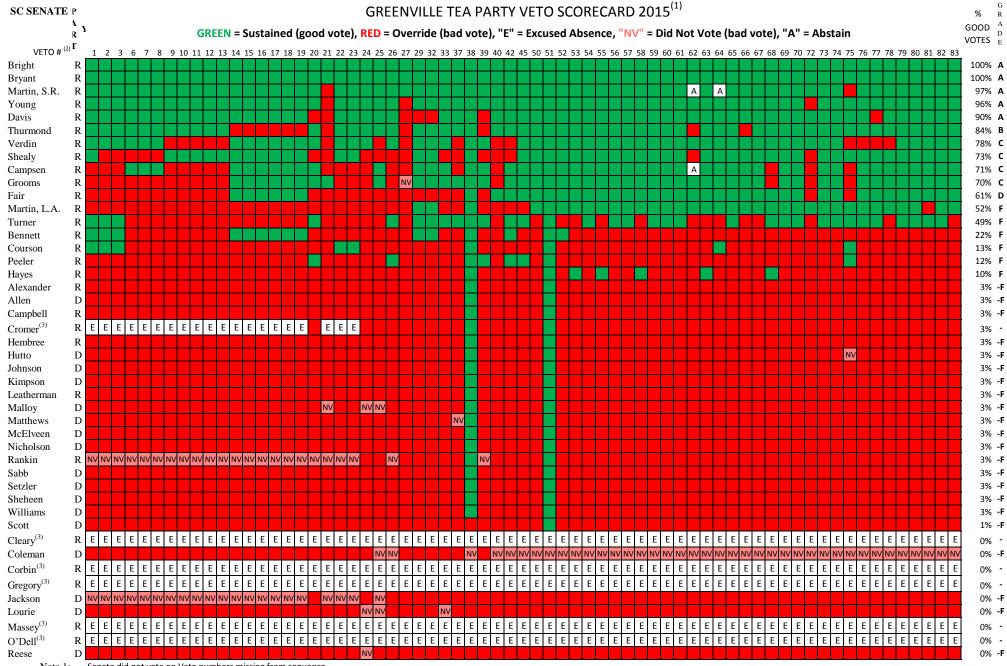
We at the **Greenville Tea Party** hope that the *Greenville Tea Party VETO Scorecard 2015* has enabled you to identify the sources of the problems in your state legislature.

- (1) Source: Governor's letter dated June 29, 2015 to the Speaker of the SC House of Representatives. Available at <a href="https://www.governor.sc.gov">www.governor.sc.gov</a>
- (2) Source: SC Legislature website www.scstatehouse.gov

The Greenville Tea Party (<u>www.greenvillescteaparty.com</u>) is a grassroots organization advocating limited government, free markets, and fiscal responsibility.







Note 1: Senate did not vote on Veto numbers missing from sequence

Note 2: SOURCES: Governor's veto letter to SC House of Representatives dated June 29, 2015, and, Bill H 3701 veto vote records found at www.scstatehouse.gov/

Note 3: Grade not assigned due to numerous excused absences

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